

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082227 TOSEC 030100
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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM JOHN TRATTNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.), SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS VANCE-GROMYKO TO MEET IN APRIL

1. FOLLOWING ARE KEY EXCERPTS FROM ARTICLE ENTITLED
"CARTER DECIDES TO SEEK SALT BREAKTHROUGH" BY HENRY
BRADSHAW IN WASHINGTON STAR, MARCH 30, DATED
BRASILIA. IF ASKED ABOUT STORY, ACTING SPOKESMAN
WILL REFER QUESTIONERS TO PRESIDENTIAL PARTY.

2. QUOTE: "PRESIDENT CARTER HAS DECIDED THAT THE
TIME HAS COME FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET
UNION TO TRY TO MAKE THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS THAT
STILL BLOCK A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY.

3. HE PLANS TO SEND SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE
TO A MEETING IN EUROPE IN LATE APRIL WITH SOVIET FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDREI A. GROMYKO, ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS
TRAVELING WITH THE PRESIDENT ON HIS TRIP TO LATIN
AMERICA AND AFRICA.

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PAGE 02 STATE 082227 TOSEC 030100

4. CARTER WANTS VANCE TO TRY TO REDUCE AND DEFINE
THESE DIFFERENCES NEXT MONTH. THAT MEETING MIGHT
THEN LEAD TO A SUMMIT CONFERENCE BETWEEN CARTER AND
THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY,
LEONID I. BREZHNEV, TO SEEK FINAL AGREEMENT.

5. OFFICIALS SAY THE MEETING BETWEEN VANCE AND GROMYKO IN A NEUTRAL WEST EUROPEAN CITY, POSSIBLY GENEVA, IS BEING ARRANGED IN SECRECY.

6. THE RECENT ADMINISTRATION VICTORY ON THE FIRST PANAMA CANAL VOTE IN THE SENATE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SIGNAL TO CARTER TO GO AHEAD AND TACKLE SALT. BUT IT IS CONSIDERED UNLIKELY BY OFFICIALS THAT A TREATY WOULD REACH SENATE CONSIDERATION BEFORE NEXT AUTUMN'S CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS. EVEN IF VANCE AND GROMYKO DO MAKE PROGRESS NEXT MONTH, FINAL DRAFTING OF A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT FOR CARTER AND BREZHNEV TO CONSIDER WOULD TAKE TIME.

7. BREZHNEV, WHO LAST SUMMER ADDED THE SOVIET PRESIDENCY TO HIS COMMUNIST PARTY POWER, HAS HAD AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1974 WHEN THEN-PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON WENT TO MOSCOW. THE TRIP HAS BEEN TIED TO THE SIGNING OF SALT II, ALTHOUGH CARTER HAS OFFERED TO MEET JUST TO DISCUSS THE TREATY AND BREZHNEV HAS SEEMED ALMOST EAGER FOR A MEETING.

8. WHILE BREZHNEV MIGHT GO TO WASHINGTON FOR A SIGNING, OFFICIALS SAY IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MIGHT MEET IN EUROPE TO DISCUSS COMPROMISES ON THE KEY TREATY ISSUES BEFORE A SIGNING IS POSSIBLE." COOPER
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PAGE 03 STATE 082227 TOSEC 030100

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